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ALEXANDRIA GAZETTE
AND VIRGINIA ADVERTISER.
(For the Country.)
Published Regularly on TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS and SATURDAYS, at Six Dollars per annum.

History of Louis G. Contri.

The people of several counties of the Valley will have no trouble in calling to mind the celebrated Dr. Contri, who made his headquarters for more than a year in Edinburg, after his desertion from the Federal army, from which point he occasionally sallied forth in the capacity of drill master, scout, spy, &c., never forgetting the necessity of being well mounted and always, preferring "capturing" to purchasing. We all may remember one particular horse and "case of surgical instruments" "captured" from some of our own people, by this seditious Confederate just prior to his departure for Richmond. However, we do not propose to give any extended account of his life in the Valley, but to present our readers a scrap of his history from a late New York Sun. He has recently been arrested, tried, convicted, and imprisoned for bigamy in New York. The Sun report is as follows:

His assumed name is Contarini, the name of that illustrious patrician Italian family which adorns the historical pages of the once renowned Republic of Venice. The precious scamp who is the subject of this sketch came to this country in the fall of 1861, married in New York a young girl fourteen years old, and then abandoned her and became a bounty jumper. The last time he enlisted was in a cavalry regiment, and every chance of escape being cut off, he was sent to the front. After a brief period of service he deserted to the Confederates while on outpost duty and was sent to Richmond, where he passed himself off as a doctor, and was appointed to attend patients in a rebel hospital.

A length, tiring of such duty (as he is very unsteady in his habits), he exchanged the position of doctor for that of a captain in a cavalry regiment, where, it is said, he distinguished himself in battle. The colonel of his regiment became attached to him; and on one occasion, a great reception being given in Jefferson Davis' mansion, the Colonel took Contri there and presented him to the elite of Richmond society.

Miss Virginia Sanders, the daughter of the then prominent rebel agent abroad, the Hon. George N. Sanders, became infatuated with the unscrupulous scoundrel, and fell a victim to his wiles. Taking advantage of her father's absence, he wooed her, and she was married. At this time the Italian Col. Cosola, who had married a relative of George N. Sanders in New York, was commanding a Union regiment of cavalry under Gen. Kilpatrick, was taken prisoner in battle and sent to Richmond. Contri, learning the fact, visited the Colonel in the Libby prison, and telling him that he had married Mr. Sanders' daughter, promised that he would use his influence to secure for him the freedom of the city on parole.

After his marriage Morgan, the famous guerrilla of Tennessee, made his appearance in Richmond for the purpose of enlisting a strong body of men to wage a guerrilla warfare along the border of Tennessee and the Ohio river. Contri, always fond of adventure, took a notion to quit the cavalry regiment and join the guerrillas encamped outside Richmond, ready to start as soon as the necessary equipment could be procured. When the guerrilla started for the border, Contri followed him, and after a few months' service, when the Presidential election of 1864 was approaching, Contri, going North as a Confederate emissary. This was easily granted, and after some dreary days of marching through the mountains of Tennessee he reached the Ohio river, and crossing came to New York.

During his sojourn in this city, he spent his time in writing the blackmailing letters to gentlemen known as rebel sympathizers, asking them to furnish him with funds, and they invariably complied with his request for fear of exposure. Among his victims was a Catholic clergyman of high standing since deceased, who was fleeced several times by the impostor. While here he was intimately associated with the gang of rebel agents that tried to burn the hotels of this city. After the discovery of their infernal plot he fled to Canada and met his father-in-law, the Hon. George N. Sanders, coming from England. There he was joined by his wife, whom he had left behind when he started on his errand for the North, and all the family lived there together.

At the time of Lincoln's assassination President Johnson offered \$25,000 reward for the body of George N. Sanders, at that time believed to be implicated in the abduction of Sanders from Canada, but his plan was frustrated by the presence in the hands of Contri, who although he was knocked down, was in time to give the alarm. This event endeared him more closely to the Sanders family. But a cloud of future prosperity, Col. Cosola after the war returned to New York, and made inquiries concerning the standing and character of Contri. Then he informed Mr. Sanders of all the doings of this scamp, and at this unexpected denunciation the father-in-law peremptorily expelled him from his house. He left behind his lovely and accomplished wife, who devotedly loved him, and who died a few months afterward of a broken heart.

After his expulsion from Mr. Sanders' house, Contri wandered until he settled in Boston, and began to practice medicine.

During the great first Fenian excitement he joined their ranks, was appointed Major, and crossed the border to Canada with them. After their inglorious retreat he returned to Boston, and opening a drug store, he married a belle of the Hub. Having spent some time with his newly-married wife, he attempted to join the Cuban patriots, possibly to get rid of wife No. 3. But instead of going to Cuba he chose a more congenial climate in the town of Poughkeepsie, where he married wife No. 4. Such is the history of the accomplished scoundrel, Contri.—*Shenandoah Democrat.*

NOTICE TO CITY TAX PAYERS.

COLLECTOR'S OFFICE, July 13, 1871.

Tax payers will take notice that the taxes due the City Council of Alexandria for the year 1871 are now ready and in the hands of the Collectors, who can be found at their office each day, except Sunday, from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. All persons paying their taxes on or before the 1st day of August, in current funds, will be allowed a discount of 10 per cent; on or before the 1st day of September, 10 per cent; on or before the 1st day of October 5 per cent, and no discount will be allowed after that date.

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S. K. FIELD, Collector S. D.

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